Traffic Light History Timeline Brandy Carey

1868-J.P Knight invented the 1st traffic light in London, which was a lantern. It was

invented before automobiles. It consists of 2colors: red, for stop, and green for go.



1912-The 1st automobile traffic light was invented by Lester Farnsworth Wire. He was head of the traffic division of the Salt Lake City Police Department.



1914-The 1st electrical signal was installed in Cleveland, Ohio

1917-The 1st traffic tower was invented in Detroit.



1920-William Potts became the 1st to invent the 3-color traffic light (red, yellow, and green). It was installed in Detroit, Michigan. Automobiles were becoming popular and there weren’t that many laws enforced for traffic. He felt like he had to do something to solve this problem.

 

By the mid 1920’s traffic signals had spread throughout North America.

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